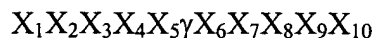


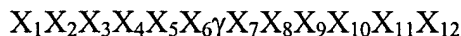
6. (amended) A polyamide of claim 1 having the formula:



wherein γ is $[-NH-CH_2-CH_2-CH_2-CONH-]$ hairpin linkage derived from γ -aminobutyric acid or] a chiral hairpin linkage derived from R-2,4-diaminobutyric acid; and

X_1/X_{10} , X_2/X_9 , X_3X_8 , X_4X_7 , and X_5/X_6 represent five carboxamide binding pairs which bind DNA base pairs wherein at least one binding pair is Hp/Py or Py/Hp and the other binding pair(s) is(are) selected from the group consisting of Py/Im, Im/Py, and Py/Py to correspond to the DNA base pair in the minor groove to be bound.

7. (amended) A polyamide of claim 1 having the formula:



wherein γ is $[-NH-CH_2-CH_2-CH_2-CONH-]$ hairpin linkage derived from γ -aminobutyric acid or] a chiral hairpin linkage derived from R-2,4-diaminobutyric acid; and

X_1/X_{12} , X_2/X_{11} , X_3X_{10} , X_4X_9 , X_5X_8 , and X_6/X_7 represent [three or four] six carboxamide binding pairs which bind DNA base pairs wherein at least one binding pair is Hp/Py or Py/Hp and the other binding pair(s) is(are) selected from the group consisting of Py/Im, Im/Py, and Py/Py to correspond to the DNA base pair in the minor groove to be bound.

B. Please cancel claims 20 and 21 without prejudice.

C. Please add new claim 26 as follows:

26. (New) A polyamide of claim 1 selected from the group consisting of:

